

ER 60-2475/a

9 April 1960

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[Handwritten signature]
Mr. Leonard R. Sussman, Executive Director
The American Council for Judaism
201 East Fifty-seventh Street
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Sussman:

In the temporary absence of Mr. Dulles from the city, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of 4 April concerning the Sixteenth Annual Conference of the American Council for Judaism in Denver.

In view of the nature of Mr. Dulles' official position, he has followed a firm policy of declining participation in non-governmental activities. However, your thoughtfulness in asking him to send a message to your group is indeed appreciated and, upon his return, I shall bring this to his attention.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
Executive Officer

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the American Council for Judaism

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A national organization founded on the basic proposition that Judaism is a religion of universal values — not a nationality. We seek for Americans of Jewish faith their increasing civic, cultural and social integration into U. S. life. The Council's active program enables American Jews to meet obligations in public affairs, religion, and philanthropy in ways compatible with our beliefs rather than in the "Jewish" nationalist pattern of Zionism. The Council affirms that nationality and religion are separate and distinct; that no Jew or group of Jews can speak for all American Jews; that Israel is the "homeland" of its own citizens only, and not of all Jews.

April 4, 1960

Mr. Allen W. Dulles
2134 E St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I am pleased to invite you to send a message of greeting to the American Council for Judaism on the occasion of its Sixteenth Annual Conference. It will be held this year in Denver, May 12th through 15th.

As you may know, the American Council for Judaism is dedicated to advancing an interpretation of Judaism as a religion of universal values, free of nationalistic implications. We conduct positive programs in the fields of public affairs, religious education and philanthropy as alternatives to the "Jewish" nationalism which Zionism seeks to foster in America.

In the forthcoming U.S. elections our programs take on heightened significance. It is necessary to offset efforts to link Jews and Judaism with specific political interests in this country and abroad. At our 1960 Conference we will discuss the "de-Zionizing" of Israel's relations with Jews outside Israel, as one step toward a just and durable peace in the Middle East. This would advance the long-term interests of the United States while assuring the survival and welfare of the people in that troubled area.

At our meetings we will strive to counteract efforts to "Zionize" the religious training programs of American Jewish youth and adults. We will strengthen our own religious education programs, dedicated to a Judaism free of nationalistic entanglements.

I am confident that a message from you to be passed on to our members throughout the country will be gratefully and respectfully received.

Sincerely yours,

Leonard R. Sussman
Leonard R. Sussman
Executive Director

16th ANNUAL CONFERENCE • HILTON HOTEL • DENVER • MAY 12, 13, 14, 15, 1960

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